

REMARKS

Claims 21-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as described on pages 3-10 of the Office Action. Claims 21-25 are independent claims.

Attached hereto is an English translation of priority document JP 11-236724. Additionally attached hereto is a statement verifying the accuracy of the translation thereby perfecting a claimed priority under 35 USC § 119.

The JP 11-236724 priority document has a filing date of August 24, 1999, which is prior to the effective filing date of Ando, which is April 7, 2000. Accordingly, Ando is not applicable prior art within the meaning of 35 USC § 102. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Ando is additionally not applicable prior art within the meaning of 35 USC § 103.

In light of the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejection of claims 21-25 under 35 USC § 103 be withdrawn.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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